

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jane Ward  
Peabody Essex Institute  
East India Square  
Salem, MA 01970

July 23, 1998

Dear Ms. Ward:

Thank you for telephoning us in answer to our inquiry about the location of the source of the coin scale we are working on.

You asked for a photocopy of the label. I enclose a very poor one.

I am enclosing my handwritten detail of what is on the label supplemented with the data I already know.

Who is Lewis Deblois and where did he live?

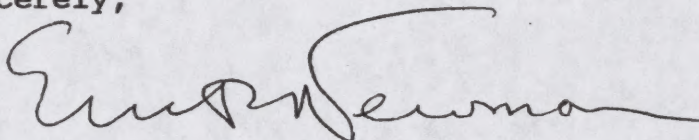
Where is Golden Eagle dock?

Where did Thomas Johnston work and live?

Any assistance you can provide will be most appreciated. This is a mystery full of specific clues.

For your kindness we will be glad to send you the 1976 edition of The Early Paper Money Of America, which I wrote if you do not already have it or a later edition in your library.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

P.S. Probable cities could be Boston, Salem, Newburyport, Plymouth, or Yarmouth with remote possibilities at Piscataqua, Cape Ann, Newport, Providence, New London, New Haven, etc.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Fred Dickfoss  
2115 Ramada Drive  
Racine, WI 53406

July 28, 1998

Dear Fred:

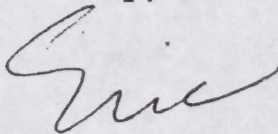
I hope you enjoyed the Colorado Springs experience as much as I did. I went on from there to New York to teach and thus was delayed in taking care of our exchange.

I have sent you on Monday July 27, 1998 an 18th century English coin scale in a wooden box with curved ends. It has weights in it which yours unfortunately did not. It has an attractive cover decoration of pressed wood. I hope you like it. I have added as a bonus to you for being so cooperative a 10 shilling 1764 Pennsylvania note printed by Benjamin Franklin #17,498. If you have the note I will send something else. I want you to be pleased.

I am now preparing to go to the ANA convention in Portland. It was a pleasure to meet you and to note your unusual enthusiasm for numismatic items.

Keep it up and thrive.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

414-886-9133



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 30, 1998

Jane Ward  
Peabody Library  
Essex Institute  
East India Square  
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Ms. Ward:

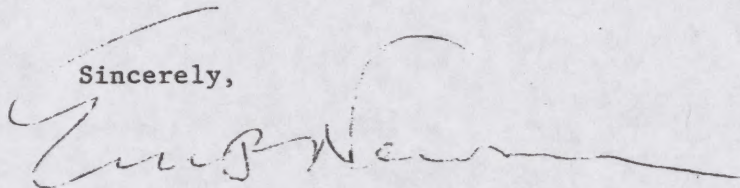
RE: Lewis Deblois  
Money Scale Label

Welcome back from your vacation.

I have concluded that at the end of the identification text the engraver wrote "L" in "La." I compared his style to the capital "S" in "Sterling." They are totally different. Thus, the "La" probably is an abbreviation of Lane.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you so much for your research.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

mb



August 6, 1998

Dear Eric:

The coin scale and weights were just what I wanted! The ten shilling note was an added surprise. I did have a Franklin note, but not from Pennsylvania. Thanks you for both.

The class on colonial money was excellent and the three of you complimented each other with your knowledge. I kept saying I wish this class would not end.

Thanks once again.

Fred



Fred Dickless  
2115 Rutland Dr.  
Racine, WI 53406-2220



Peabody Essex  
MUSEUM

EAST INDIA SQUARE

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970-3783

TEL: 508-745-1876 FAX: 508-744-6776

jane\_ward@pem.org

25 August 1998

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Many thanks for your patience in the matter of the coin scale label we discussed on the telephone in early July. Your letter and photocopies arrived during my vacation, and we try to answer reference inquiries in the order in which they are received, so I am not always able to get to things as quickly as I would like.

I have not found any information concerning Lewis Deblois, although I suspect he kept a business in Boston. We have only one published genealogy that treats the Deblois family, and the references in that are to seventeenth-century Frenchmen. However, in the 1789 Boston city directory, the first to be published in Boston, there are three members of the Deblois family, all engaged in merchant activities. They are:

Deblois, William, Store No. 2 Long-wharf  
Deblois, Gilbert jun, Store No. 19 Long-wharf  
Deblois, Gilbert senior, merchant, No. 1 Cornhill

I think it a reasonable (but probably not provable) assumption that these Deblois men may have been part of a family of merchants that included Lewis in an earlier period.

The reason I think Deblois may have been in Boston is because of the information I have found on Thomas Johnston, who was a Boston engraver, among other occupations. I am enclosing some photocopies about him that clearly place him in Boston during his lifetime.

I can find no reference to the Golden Eagle dock or the Golden Eagle dock lane in Boston. I have, however, seen references such as the following from *The Crooked and Narrow Streets of the Town of Boston* (p. 130): "In 1727 John Sale advertised all sorts of household goods at the Sign of the Golden Horse near the dock." Since the label reads "Sold by Lewis Deblois at ye Golden Eagle dock La," I am wondering if Deblois ran a store of some sort under the "sign of the golden eagle" near the dock? Could the "La" actually be "Sq" for Dock Square? You would be a better



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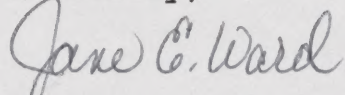
Mr. Eric P. Newman  
25 August 1998  
Page Two

judge of that interpretation than I, because that part of the label is obscured on the photocopy you sent me. Dock Square was a very well known thoroughfare in Boston, first laid out in 1708 near the Town Dock. It was known as a mercantile area.

As to your kind offer of the 1976 edition of *The Early Paper Money of America*, we would be happy to accept. We do not have any edition of this book in our holdings, although we have substantial published information on paper currency and a small currency collection as well, so it would be a helpful addition. Many thanks.

I hope you find some of this information helpful in pinpointing this label.

Sincerely,



Jane E. Ward  
Curator of Manuscripts

/Enclosures





## Massachusetts Historical Society

1154 Boylston Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02215-3695

TEL (617) 536-1608 FAX (617) 859-0074

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
E.P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

31 August 1998

Dear Mr. Newman:

Your instincts were correct. From the enclosed Xeroxed material, you can see that Lewis Deblois was a Boston merchant - at least, until the revolution.

Hope this material answers all your questions.

Sincerely yours,

Anne E. Bentley  
Sr. Conservator



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Anne C. Bentley  
Massachusetts Historical Society  
1154 Boylston St.  
Boston, MA 02215-3695

September 4, 1998

Dear Ms. Bentley:

Many thanks for the thorough and speedy answer to my inquiry about Lewis Deblois. You knew exactly where to look.

With greatest respect,

  
Eric P. Newman



Peabody Essex  
MUSEUM

EAST INDIA SQUARE

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970-3783

TEL: 508-745-1876 FAX: 508-744-6776

jane\_ward@pem.org

4 September 1998

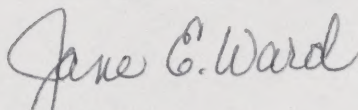
Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for the Bicentennial Edition of *The Early Paper Money of America* to be added to our collections here. It arrived safely yesterday. I flipped through it briefly and it looks fascinating. I am sure it will be an extremely helpful resource for anyone looking for Colonial currency information. Your generosity is much appreciated.

We appreciate your donation to, and your support of, the Peabody Essex Museum.

Sincerely,



Jane E. Ward  
Curator of Manuscripts



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Norman Leventhal  
c/o American Antiquarian Society  
185 Salisbury St.  
Worcester, MA 01609-1634

March 4, 1999

PLEASE FORWARD

Dear Mr. Leventhal:

In the February 19, 1999 letter from the Society you are featured as one very knowledgeable in Boston history and a Boston area map collector. You are just what I need to solve a problem on a coin scale we have from the 1749/50 period which has an engraved label of coin values and weights, containing the statement:

SOLD BY LEWIS DEBLOIS AT YE GOLDEN EAGLE DOCK LA

The last two letters (LA) are uncertain and I do not know if this is an abbreviation for "Lane" or for something else which like "sq" for square.

Do you have any map or data indicating where the Lewis Deblois business was located or exactly where the Golden Eagle dock was?

Records show that Lewis Deblois was a resident of Boston then.

I am a member of A.A.S. and would appreciate your input. Thank you for any courtesy you may show me.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman



# American Antiquarian Society

185 SALISBURY STREET  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01609-1634

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63105

16 March 1999

Dear Mr. Newman,

AAS Curator of Graphic Arts Georgia Barnhill is currently on leave from the library until April 5. As Acting Curator, I received your letter, and have done some research on your question regarding Lewis Deblois. The earliest extant Boston city directory was published in 1789; Lewis Deblois is not listed in it. However, the next available directory (1796) lists a "George Deblois, auctioneer, No. 1 Cornhill." This directory listing prompted me to re-examine the transcription that you gave in your letter: perhaps "Sold by Lewis Deblois at Ye Golden Eagle Dock La" actually means "sold by Lewis Deblois at the sign of the Golden Eagle, Dock Square." I located Osgood Carleton's map of Boston (1796), and you can see from the enclosed photocopy that Cornhill St. runs into Dock Square. The major commercial center Faneuil Hall (no. 6 on the map) is close to this intersection. I assume that no. 1 Cornhill would be at the corner of Cornhill and Dock Sq.

Ms. Barnhill will review this letter upon her return, and will contact you if she has any further advice or suggestions.

Sincerely,



Laura Wasowicz  
Acting Curator of Graphic Arts

TELEPHONES  
ALL DEPARTMENTS: (508) 755-5221  
RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT: (508) 752-5813



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105*

Laura Wasowicz  
American Antiquarian Society  
185 Salem St.  
Worcester, MA 01609-1634

March 22, 1999

Dear friend:

Your letter of 16 March 1999 as to the Lewis Deblois problem is most appreciated. Your conclusions are correct. The Historical and Genealogical Journal of New England lists Lewis Deblois on Dock Square before the Revolution when he apparently left Boston. His relatives stayed there.

It was confused by the fact that "dock" was not capitalized as it should have been. The letter I thought was the script capital "L" is quite similar to a script capital "S". The script "a" is scuffed at the bottom and easily could be a script "q". The use of "ye" in reference to a store sign was customary as you indicate.

The Golden Eagle store of Deblois was operating in 1749 when the scale was sold. So far I find the scale label unique. It was engraved by Thomas Johnston of Boston whose name is on it.

Thanks for your help,

Eric P. Newman



This is the label on the inside of an English scale box brought to America for sale. The expressions "lawful money" and "Old Tenor" are only used in New England so this must be an American label. If it were Louisiana it would be in Spanish or French and would not use the words Lawful Money or Old Tenor.

COINS	Weights and Value						in lawful Money	Weight			Gold			Silver		
	Oz		dwt		gr			Oz		dwt		gr		Old Tenor		Old Tenor
a Guinea	•	5	9	10	10	•	28/	1	•	•	38	0	0	2	10	0
a Half guinea	•	2	16½	5	5	•	14/	•	10	•	19	•	•	1	5	•
a Moidore	•	6	22¼	13	10	•	30/	•	5	•	9	10	•	•	12	6
a 4 Pistole p <sup>d</sup>	•	17	8	33	•	•	88/	•	4	•	7	12	•	•	10	•
a 2 Pistole p <sup>d</sup>	•	8	16	16	10	•	44/	•	3	•	5	14	•	•	7	6
a 1 Pistole p <sup>d</sup>	•	4	8	8	5	•	22/	•	2	•	3	16	•	•	5	•
a 3-12 ster p <sup>d</sup> or double Johannes	•	18	10	36	•	•	90/	•	1	•	1	18	•	•	2	6
a 36 ster <sup>l</sup> p <sup>d</sup>	•	9	5	18	•	•	48/	•	•	12	•	19	•	•	1	3
a 18 ster p <sup>d</sup>	•	4	14½	9	•	•	24/	•	•	6	•	9	6	•	•	7½
a 9 ster p <sup>d</sup>	•	2	7¼	4	10	•	12/	•	•	3	•	4	9	•	•	3¾
a Crown	•	19	8½	2	10	•	6/8/	•	•	2	•	3	2	•	•	2½
a Dollar	•	17	12	2	5	•	6	•	•	1	•	1	7	•	•	1¼
a Half Dollar	•	8	18	1	2	6	3	NB 24 Grains to a pennywt 20 penny 103 Sold by Lewis DeBlois at J <sup>r</sup> Golden Eagle dock La,								
a Quar Dollar	•	4	9	•	11	3	1/6									

1998 Commentary:  
by Eric P. Newman

La in the last line may be La. The balance of the label is not present after that La could be Louisiana, Lane, or Salem or something else. It seems to be *Sq* for Square. Thomas Johnston, the engraver of the label, was the engraver of Rhode Island paper money issues from 1743-1748.

The ratio of Lawful Money to Old Tenor is 7 1/2 to 1 which is the redemption value set in 1749/50 in Massachusetts Bay and also the ratio for a year or two prior to that.

The gold and silver values in Old Tenor in the two right sections relate to the weight in the section to their immediate left and do not relate to the coins listed on the far left column.

The 36/ sterling piece is a single Johannes of Portugal.



Weights & Value		Low		Height		Gold		Silver	
COINS.	Oz. dwt. grs.	Old	Tenor	Money	Oz. dwt. grs.	Old	Tenor	Old	Tenor
d. guinea.	5 9 10	10	10	0	28	1			
d. Half guinea	2 16 5	5	5		14			38	0 5
d. Moindre.	6 22 13	10			30			19	
d. 4 Pistole p.	17 8 35				83			9	10
d. 2 Pistole p.	8 16 10				41			7	12
d. 1 Pistole p.	4 8 5				20			5	14
d. 22 p. p. c.	12 10 30				10			1	18
d. 10 p. p. c.	6 5 15				5			1	10
d. 5 p. p. c.	3 2 30				2			1	5
d. 2 p. p. c.	1 10 10				1			1	2
d. 1 p. p. c.	0 10 10				0			1	0
d. 1/2 p. p. c.	0 5 10				0			1	0
d. 1/4 p. p. c.	0 2 10				0			1	0
d. 1/8 p. p. c.	0 1 10				0			1	0
d. 1/16 p. p. c.	0 0 10				0			1	0



TABLE of the Weight & value of Coins as they pass in New England.

COINS.	Wt.		Mall. OT			Law. M			GOLD p <sup>oz</sup>		SILVER p <sup>oz</sup>					
	dw	gr	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	sz.	dw.	sz.	dw.				
A Guinea	5	9	10	10	0	1	8	0	1	0	0	2	10	0		
Half Guinea	2	16	5	5					10		19		1	5		
Moidore	6	22	13	10		1	16		5		9	10		12	6	
4 Pistole piece	17	8	33			4	8		2		3	16			5	
2 Pistole piece	8	16	16	10		2	4		1		1	18			2	6
1 Pistole	4	8	8	5		1	2			12		19			1	3
Double Johannes	15	10	36			4	16		6		9	6				17
Single Johannes	9	5	18			2	8		3		4	9				5
Half Johannes	7	11	9			1	4		1		1	7				1
Quarter Johannes	2	7	4	10				12								
Crown Silver	19	8	2	10		6										
Dollar	17	12	2	5		6										
Half Dollar	8	16	1	2	6	2										
Quarter Dollar	4	9	11	3		1	6									

N 24	Grains	is one penny
20	Penny	W <sup>t</sup> is one Ounce

324 Grains is one Penny W<sup>t</sup>  
 20 Penny W<sup>t</sup> is one Ounce



Peabody Essex Institute

~~617~~

978-745-1876

Reference

1-800 745-4054

Peabody

Ext 3053

Phillips Library  
East India Square  
Salem MA 01970

10-5 PM Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri

10-8 PM, Sun

Jane Ward



8/27/98

Ann Bentley  
Mass Hist Soc

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617-536-1608

Conservator

Book on realty transactions, wills etc  
which is indexed  
covers period up to 1800



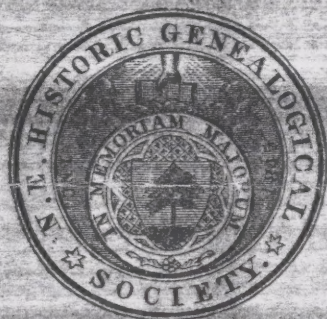
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THE  
NEW ENGLAND  
HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL  
REGISTER

VOL. LXVII. JANUARY, 1913

WHOLE NUMBER, 265



BOSTON  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE  
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
AT THE ROBERT HENRY EDDY MEMORIAL ROOMS

1913



5. LEWIS<sup>3</sup> DE BLOIS (*Stephen,<sup>2</sup> Louis<sup>1</sup>*), born in New York 9 Sept. 1727, became like his brother Gilbert a successful importer of and dealer in hardware and other foreign goods in Boston. His place of business in 1756 and 1757 was at the "Sign of the Golden Eagle" in Dock Square, but in July 1763 it was at the foot of King Street. He announces, 24 Oct. 1763, that he has removed his stock of goods from King Street to his "late dwelling house on Dock Square." He announces also, 25 July 1763, that he intends to sail for England early in the next spring, and he wishes all persons indebted to him to settle their accounts. At this time he advertises for sale "a curious toned harpsicord just imported from London," which "is esteemed the master piece of the famous Falconer." He also advertises for church use an organ made by Mr. Thomas Johnston of Boston, formerly used in the Concert Hall. He calls for lumber, codfish, and mackerel. In 1774, when he becomes a "protester and addresser," he is called "Shopkeeper" in Dock Square. (*Mass. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, Vol. 11, p. 392.) In Mar. 1776, with a family of two, he went with Howe's fleet to Halifax, from there, very likely in May, sailing with his brother Gilbert and other Loyalists for England. (*Mass. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, vol. 18, p. 266.) With his brother he was proscribed and banished in 1778. He was a vestryman of King's Chapel from 1763 to 1776. In 1754 he exchanged his pew, No. 68, in the church with Samuel Withers for pew No. 66.

Lewis De Blois married first, in Boston, 4 Sept. 1748 (Rev. Timothy Cutler, D.D., officiating), ELIZABETH JENKINS, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Goddard), who was born 16 Aug. 1730 and died 16 or 17 June 1767. He married secondly, 25 Dec. 1770, ELIZABETH DEBUKE, who died in England 23 Nov. 1799, aged 74. He died in England 9 Feb. 1799, and in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 69, part 1, p. 173, appeared the following notice: "Very suddenly at his apartments in Holborn, after being out on that day, Mr. Lewis Deblois, late merchant in Boston, North America." He was probably buried in London. Administration of his estate was granted in Boston, 9 Sept. 1800, to his eldest son George.

Children by first wife:

12. i. GEORGE,<sup>4</sup> called "Jr.," b. 27 Oct. 1750.
- ii. SARAH, b. 29 Dec. 1753; m. 25 Dec. 1771, in King's Chapel Parish, her father's first cousin, GEORGE<sup>3</sup> DE BLOIS, called "Sr.," b. at Oxford 6 Mar. 1739/40, founder of the Halifax, Nova Scotia, branch of the family. (*Vide infra*, 7.)
13. iii. LEWIS, b. 10 Apr. 1762.
- iv. GILBERT, b. 20 Dec. 1763; d. at Providence, R. I., June 1785, probably without issue.

6. STEPHEN<sup>3</sup> DE BLOIS, JR. (*George,<sup>2</sup> Louis<sup>1</sup>*), born at Oxford in 1735, came, it is said, in a warship to Newport, R. I., at the age of thirteen, and decided, like his brother George, to make New England his home. On the earliest stages of his business career no light is thrown; but in Sept. 1757 "Wickham and De Blois"\* advertise in the *Boston Gazette*, at the "Sign of the Golden Eagle, opposite to Dr. Tweedy's," and at their store "opposite to Col. Malbone's brick house," a large stock of hardware, India goods, etc. In May 1763

\* The name of this Newport firm was later "De Blois and Wickham."



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF  
LOYALISTS  
OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WITH  
AN HISTORICAL ESSAY.

BY  
LORENZO SABINE.

VOLUME I.

*Baltimore*  
GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING CO., INC.  
1979



Europe, had been his friend, and wished to aid him, and would have done so, had he been able to remove the accusations that had blighted his hopes and injured his character. But Mr. Jay had heard that he was on terms of familiarity with Arnold, and "every American who gives his hand to that man," he wrote to Deane, "in my opinion pollutes it." I have said that he may have been wronged. He may have been careless in his accounts, but not dishonest; he may have been incapable, not corrupt. In 1842 his long-disputed claims were adjusted by Congress, and a large sum was found to be due to his heirs, under the principles recognized by the Government, and applicable to all claimants; hence the doubt, whether he received entire justice at the hands of his associates. A man driven to despair is to be judged mercifully. He died on board the *Boston Packet*, in the Downs, in 1789, in his fifty-third year, after four hours' illness. His wife was "the rich widow Webb."

DEBLOIS, GILBERT. Merchant, of Boston. An Addresser of Hutchinson in 1774, and of Gage in 1775. He went to Halifax in 1776. In 1778 he was proscribed and banished. In 1779 he was in London, and addressed the King. He died in England in 1791, aged sixty-three.

DEBLOIS, GEORGE. Of Salem, Massachusetts. An Addresser of Gage in 1774. He went to England. In 1784, George Deblois, Jr., was a merchant at Halifax, Nova Scotia. The widow of a George Deblois, died at the same city, December, 1827, aged seventy-four.

DEBLOIS, ISAAC. He was in the service of the King, and a lieutenant. In 1784 a lot in the city of St. John, New Brunswick, was granted him by the Crown.

DEBLOIS, LEWIS. Merchant, of Boston. He was an Addresser of Gage in 1775, and in 1776 was at Halifax. In 1778 he was proscribed and banished. He was in London in 1779. He died very suddenly in England, (after being out all day,) in 1779, aged seventy-one.

DEBLOIS, LEWIS. Of Massachusetts. After the peace, a merchant in St. John, New Brunswick, and in 1795 a mem-

ber of the company of Loyal Artillery. He died in that city in 1802. His daughter, Elizabeth Cranston, is the wife of James White, Esq., late (1847) sheriff of the county of St. John.

DEBOW, JAMES. Served in the Queen's Rangers; settled in New Brunswick in 1783, and died there. His widow, Huldah, died in that Province in 1847, aged ninety-four.

DE LANCEY, OLIVER. Of New York. In command of a Loyalist brigade. He was the eldest son of Stephen De Lancey and of his wife, Ann Van Cortlandt, and was born in the city of New York in 1717. He served with credit in two campaigns of the French war, at the head of a regiment. In 1759 he was elected to the House of Assembly, and the next year appointed a member of the Council. His father, who was a French refugee, was a gentleman of wealth, and of the first rank. His career for some years may be considered in connection with that of his brother James, who was Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of that Colony. James was a man of talents, of learning, of great vivacity, and of popular manners; but, if the writers of the time are to be followed, he was also an unprincipled demagogue, who opposed the governors whom he could not rule, and who, for unworthy purposes of his own, kept the public mind in continual agitation. He was at the head of affairs and administered the government after the removal of Clinton and the death of Osborn, and a second time as the successor of Hardy. He died in 1760. The party opposed to his advancement, in denouncing his ambitious projects, did not spare Oliver, the subject of this notice. On some occasions, Oliver seems to have promoted his brother's designs, at the expense of propriety and decorum. But yet Oliver De Lancey, at the period of the French war, occupied a commanding position, and perhaps he did not overrate his personal influence when he said, that if in the expedition against Crown Point, he "should accept the command of the New York Regiment, he could in ten days raise the whole" quota of troops allotted to that Colony. This standing he maintained after his brother's death, and until the